BRAND NEW VIDEO GAME STORY EXCLUSIVE!

SONIC™ SUPER SPECIAL

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ISSUE 3

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

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With Dr. Eggman's defeat on the Egg Station, Sonic makes his return home, only to jump right into his next big adventure! The magical Little Planet has made its annual return! What wonders await?!

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It's the beginning of a beautiful rivalry. Sonic meets his ultimate robot doppelgangar, the evil, yet super cool looking, Metal Sonic!

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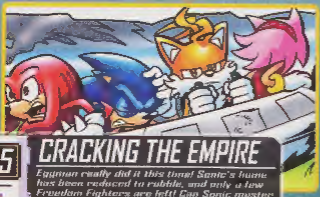

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SONIC GRAMS PRESENTS

HEY KIDS!

WRITE TO
US & SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY
MAIL c/o ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX # 419
MAMARONECK NY 10543-0419
YOU CAN ALSO WRITE
IN VIA E-MAIL: SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM

LETTERS

Hope y'all enjoyed the SONIC ADVENTURE feature in our last SONIC SUPER SPECIAL, it was a real blast putting it together! This time we got an all new cover by Sonic comic artist Ben Bates, as well as an all-new SONIC 4 EPISODE II adaption story! Also, remember to write in to "SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY," we want to hear from YOU!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Hi! My name is Luke! I'm one of your HUGE fans writing off, and coming with questions!

Howdy there, Luke! You'll have the usual!

1) How did Fiona get on the team of Freedom Fighters? Wasn't she an auto automaton?

Fiona was indeed an Auto-Automaton way back when she debuted in the Tails mini-series, but ACTUALLY that was a robot based on a REAL Fiona, who had been imprisoned for years! When she escaped, she became a Freedom Fighter for a time, until she eventually found her true calling -- super villainy! (now there's a career move for ya!)

2) Is Sonic gonna bump heads with Shadow anytime soon?

Sonic and Shadow's rivalry is FAR from over -- in the meantime you can check out their titanic clash in Sonic Universe Volume 1 -- available wherever fine graphic novels are sold! plugplugplugplug

3) Is the Tails Doll going to be in any of the comics? That would be way past cool.

You bet your Mobian patootie it is! "Operation Deadly Cuddles" as the good Doctor Eggman calls it, will be wreaking some havoc in the near future! Keep them eyes peeled!

4) Why are there holes in the comic book series on the Sonic Comics App?

Holes you say? Well the Sonic App is constantly growing to include

SUPER SPECIAL DELIVERY

every issue of the series, so be sure and check back often for updates!

5) Is Sonic X going to appear on the Sonic Comics App? That would be awesome!

If the fans demand it, how can we say no?

Anyway, that's all my questions. Your comics are awesome!
Luke G.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

YOU are awesome -- thanks for writing in, Luke!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Ever since I saw him in Scourge's arc (Sonic Universe #'s 29-32), I've been wondering: will Mephiles make anymore cameos in the series?
Tess W.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

We were very pleased at the fan response toward Mephiles' cameo appearance in "Scourge: Lock-Down," and would love to include the character into future issues! But where and when that will happen will have to remain a mystery for now...

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Okay, before I question the stuff I'm not sure on, I'm just going to point out that there may be a few typos.
(I just ate about 6 pounds of mint ice cream)

slow clap

1) In Sonic's opinion, is Knuckles considered a friend, enemy, or frenemy?

Frenemy, definitely! And for anyone out there looking to learn a little more about "frenemies," make sure you check out the new Archie "Jinx" graphic novel, featuring inks and letters by Sonic's own Terry Austin and John Workman! plusplugplugplug

2) Do you guys think Espio and friends deserve their own SU Arc? (I sure do.)

We do too! Sonic fans: do NOT fear...the Chaotix, Mighty and Ray, Knuckles– all of these stories will continue!

3) Last but not least, how old is Espio? (He's my absolute FAVORITE character!!)

I love Espio too! Did you catch him in the SU arc "Journey to the East"?? Lots of big character reveals there! (plugplugplugplug) But yea he's 16.

Thanks for reading my questions. I am your absolute BIGGEST fan ever!

I'll be the judge of that!

Oh, and feel free to point out typos. I'm definitely used to it :D
Your Biggest Fan\Reader,
Joshua C.
from Nova Scotia

Thanks Joshua, you sir, are awesome beyond compare!

Dear 'Super Special Delivery',
Yes, a super-sized letter column! I will try to make this short enough to fit! I think issues 230 to 232 are the best issues Ian Flynn has ever written of Sonic the Hedgehog! He is on a roll! They were filled with drama, surprises and action, and I enjoyed their 'boldness' in shaking up the continuity.
Best of chili dogs,
Matthew F.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada

Glad to hear you're diggin' STH, and thanks for writing in Matthew!

That's all for Super Special delivery this month, but make sure y'all keep writing in and letting us know what you think of the Sonic Super Special Magazine!

SUPER SHOUT – OUTS

"If Sally is not a robot in Sonic Universe 30 Years Later that means that she will change back to normal in the Sonic the Hedgehog comics...right?" - Josh W.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

"When is Dr. Finitevus making his next appearance? It has been over 2 years, and I really want to see my favorite villain again!" - J
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

"You guys only continue to impress me with every passing issue." -Daniel C. from Massachusetts

"Jamal Peppers has amazing artistic talents as well as an amazing last name!" - Jacob W.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

"I'd like the honor of doing this: For more Sonic goodness check out Sonic Universe, Sonic Archives, the Sonic checklist, and the Sonic Comic App available on the app store plugplugplugplug." - Ian H
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL NEWS FLASH

ANTOINE D'COOLETTE

A HERO'S SACRIFICE!

Commander Antoine D'Coolette has come a long way since his first appearance waaaaay back in **1993's Sonic the Hedgehog (mini-series) #1**.

Early on, Antoine was the most skittish of the **Freedom Fighters**, but tried to hide his inner doubt and jumpiness with swaggering bravado, earning him endless heckling from **Sonic the Hedgehog**. His romantic advances towards **Princess Sally** were snubbed, which worsened his self-esteem. A break came in the form of **Bunnie Rabbot**, who managed to see the scared but heroic boy beneath the facade. She eventually helped Antoine ease into his true self. From leaping at shadows, to conquering his fears, to finally marrying the love of his life, Antoine grew into a **beloved hero** for the crown of Acorn and pivotal player in the Freedom Fighters.

Such heroism was on full display in the pages of **Sonic the Hedeghog #234**, when he lept into battle and bravely sacrificed his own safety for the safety of the Acorn Royal family. While Antoine appears not to have paid the ultimate price for this bravery, he is now confined to a hospital room, with a bleak prognosis.

Is this the end of the line for Commander D'Coolette? **"The future's not written for ol' 'Twan yet -- and I'm not spoiling! But I think what we should take away from this right now is how much he's grown as a character, as a hero, and be proud he did the right thing when he was needed," says writer Ian Flynn**, "but one thing is for certain, it doesn't look good for Antoine right now. His sacrifice to me is the ultimate testament to his evolution as a character, which is nothing short of spectacular!" Pay careful attention to **future** issues for emerging details regarding **Antoine's fate**, and indeed the fate of the Freedom Fighters as a team!■

SACRÉ BLEU CHEESE!

ANTOINE HAS BECOME MUCH LESS COWARDLY OVER TIME. HOWEVER, HE STILL RETAINS HIS SKITTISH DEMEANOR

THE "SECRET" IS OUT!

AN UNDERCOVER ENSEMBLE

The Freedom Fighters have fallen and IXIS NAUGUS rules the kingdom! Who will work in the shadows to restore order, protect the city and fight the future? Sonic Universe #41-44 gives us the answer...THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

Silver the Hedgehog has tried many times to prevent his terrible future by stopping the Freedom Fighter traitor, still largely unkown! Now, at the cusp of Moblus' darkest hour, Silver finds himself banded together with **Elias Acorn**, the true king, and **Harvey Who**, the owl behind the curtain, to find out what Ixis Naugus is up to and stop his Machiavellian scheme before it's too late!

In addition to Elias and Harvey, Silver is joined by **Larry Lynx** -- former leader of the Substitute Legion of Freedom Fighters, **Leeta and Lyco** -- twin warriors of the Wolf Pack Nation and **Shard** -- previously Metal Sonic 2.5! Can they stop Ixis Naugus? Pick up SU#41 to find out! ON SALE JUNE 2012!■

CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN!

DESIGN INSPIRATION FOR THE CHARACTERS' BATTLE SUITS WERE TAKEN FROM RIVALS 2 FOR PSP!

METAL MADNESS!

THE RETURN OF METAL SONIC!

The fierce battle from Episode I was only an overture...

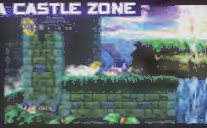
What was Dr. Eggman searching for in the Lost Labyrinth? What was Mad Gear built for? They were all mere puzzle pieces in a far more grandiose scheme! As Little Planet, where **"SONIC CD"** took place, approaches Sonic's world once again, Dr. Eggman's evil plot will be revealed!

SONIC 4: EPISODE II begins where Episode I left off! To top things off, Eggman has revived one of Sonic's greatest rivals, **METAL SONIC**! Sonic and his sidekick, **MILES "TAILS" PROWER,** band together to stop the Eggman, but how do they get started? Find out in our comic adaptation, this issue, and download the game on May 15, 2012 for your PS3, XBOX 360, or your mobile device!■

THE STAGES SO FAR!

SYLVANIA CASTLE ZONE

The ruins of a lost castle filled with deadly traps in a mystical forest!



WHITE PARK ZONE

Part Christmas, part Carnival Night, all fun! Enjoy the rides and the snow!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

PRESENTS: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL SPECTACULAR

Welcome, Sonic fans young and old! Jonathan "WB" Gray, your Sonic Off-Panel artist here! The Archie Sonic Team has seen fit to give me my own column (THE FOOLS! MWAHAHAHA!!!) where I can discuss topics with you guys and be "YOUR MAN ON THE INSIDE!"

STH Presents: Knuckles Archives #2
In comic shops - 3/21/2012 $9.99 US/$10.99 CAN

Featuring the 1st appearances of fan faves Julie-Su and Remington! The Dingo Regime and the Dark Legion attack just in time for the return of the mad demi-god Enerjak! Collecting the **"Lost Paradise"** and **"Dark Vengeance"** sages from Knuckles #4-9!

Sonic Select #5: Sonic Kids!
In comic shops - 4/25/2012 $11.99 US/$12.99 CAN

Dial your clocks back to a cuter yesterday and take a gander at our heroes during their childhood! See the creation of the Freedom Fighters, the birth of Tails, and how Sonic got his sneakers! But watch out, 'cuz classic Dr. Robotnik may be right around the corner!

The Best of Sonic the Hedgehog: Volume 1
In comic shops - 5/23/2012 $24.99 US/$27.99 CAN

Join us as the Archie Comics Sonic Team selects their favorite stories from the history of the series and presents them in this thematic hardcover collection! From **"Mecha Madness"** to **"Eggman Empire"** this is, bar none, the cream of the crop!

Sonic the Hedgehog Archives #18
In comic shops - 6/13/2012 $7.99 US/$8.99 CAN

With the World Tour over, evil archwizard Ixis Naugus defeated and the recluse Nate Morgan in tow, Sonic and Tails return home to find a new prince, a new city and tons of adventure! Meanwhile, a shadowy figure plots from his satellites in space...

It's a great time to be a Sonic fan, gang! The games are speeding along spectacularly and the comics are careening full-tilt towards adventure like a rollercoaster that's gone cuckoo-bananas!

As I sat at my art table several days ago pouring over color corrections for **Knuckles Archives Vol. 2**, I thought to myself how far the comic has come since I was a kid in school eagerly awaiting my next issue like many of you are. I'd rush home, turn off the TV, shut my door and lie down to read endless piles of comics -- but the Sonic ones always held a special place during my reading time.

Now I look at all of the books to left that are being put together by the Archie Sonic Team and smile knowing all the love and dedication being poured into them. We might put some of your favorite characters through the wringer, but that's all part of telling a story that you, the reader, can enjoy!

Whether we're editors, writers, artists, letterers, inkers or production artists *ahem* we want feedback from you and hope that you enjoy the ride we've taken the meticulous care to craft for you!

DUB'S TRIVIA CORNER!

Part of the initiative for Sonic Archives hasn't just been collecting material; it also includes taking the time to restore it! When you pick up your copy of **Knuckles Archives vol. 2**, take a second glance at the citizens of Echidnaopolis! Many are sporting new hues to match the crazy color spectrums found in Sonic's world today!

Catch you on the flip side, gang!

- Jon Gray! ☺

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

SONIC: GENESIS AWAKENINGS

NEW LOOKS ON A NEWER LIFE!

The GENESIS event, now available in hardcover GN, redefined and rewrote not only Planet Mobius, but all of Sonic's universe from the ground up! With the push of a button, the evil Dr. Eggman launched "Operation: Clean Sweep!" and changed *everything*...

High in the planet's orbit, deep in the heart of the Death Egg, **SUPER SONIC** fought and defeated the Eggman's latest Egg Destroyer Battlesuit! Using Chaos Control, an exhausted Sonic set things back to the way they once were.

...But what was going through the minds of Sonic's friends planetside as the white light flashed and the Universe changed itself back?

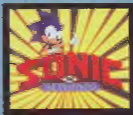
GENESIS: AWAKENINGS retells the story of "Two Steps Back" as printed in **Sonic the Hedgehog #230**, but this time, before the white light envelops all of Mobius, take a quick glimpse into the minds of Sonic's friends just prior to Sonic and Sally's heroic sacrifice aboard the Death Egg. Join Tails the Fox, Amy Rose, Knuckles the Echidna, Rotor the Walrus and even that saucy southern belle, Bunnie Rabbot for the **2012 FREE COMIC BOOK DAY** issue of **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** -- available at your participating local comic book store May 5th, 2012!■

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE
888-COMIC-BOOK
comicshoplocator.com

THE FASTEST THING ALIVE!

CLASSIC SONIC CARTOONS RETURN ON NETFLIX

With the addition of the Saturday morning ABC Sonic cartoon to its lineup, all three of the American DiC produced Sonic cartoons are now available on Netflix! Let's take a look at each one! Which one is your favorite?



Sonic the Hedgehog
Original Run: 1993-1994

Sonic SatAM, as it's known to its fans, introduced us to the world of Planet Mobius and Sonics friends, the Freedom Fighters! Together they fight to defeat Dr. Robotnik and save King Acorn from the Void!

DID YOU KNOW: Just like the early days of the comic, Sally appears in the pilot colored pink!

Adventures of Sonic
Original Run: 1993-1996

AoSTH was the wackier of the Sonic cartoons harkening to slapstick with Sonic and Tails VS Dr. Robotnik and his badniks, Scratch, Grounder and fan favorite, Coconuts!

DID YOU KNOW: Long John Baldry, from the show, was Dr. Ivo Robotnik! He was a TV star!

Sonic Underground
Original Run: 1999-2000

SU paired Sonic with a new brother and sister, Sonia and Manic. Together they toured Mobius as a rock band, stopping Dr. Robotnik and searching for their mother, Queen Aleena!

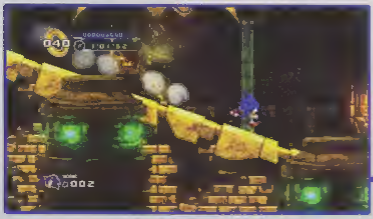
DID YOU KNOW: Knuckles and a new version of Athair from the comics also appear in the show!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

SONIC 4 EPISODE II

PREVIOUSLY...

AFTER BEING REPEATEDLY DEFEATED, **DR. EGGMAN** FINALLY DECIDED TO FOCUS ON GETTING RID OF HIS ULTIMATE PROBLEM, **SONIC**, ONCE AND FOR ALL! THE **INSANE SCIENTIST** REVISITED -- AND **IMPROVED** -- HIS MOST SUCESSFUL CREATIONS IN HOPES THAT THEY WOULD GET THE BEST OF THE **BLUE BLUR**.



SONIC, WHO IS ALWAYS READY FOR ANOTHER **ADVENTURE**, BLASTED THROUGH EGGMAN'S ROBOTS AS WELL AS FOUR **FANTASTIC ZONES**, NOT EVEN BREAKING A SWEAT!

LATER IN **OUTER SPACE**, ON THE DOCTOR'S **EGG STATION**, SONIC AND EGGMAN HAD THEIR **FINAL CONFRONTATION**. SONIC WAS FAST ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE DOCTOR'S **GIANT MECH** AND RETURN HOME SAFE AND SOUND.

BUT AS ONE ADVENTURE CLOSES, ANOTHER BEGINS...

DID YOU KNOW...

"SONIC 4 EPISODE I" was the first Sonic title ever in the main series to be released strictly as a digital downloadable title! Who would've known that 16 years after "Sonic & Knuckles" release that Sonic would be making his 2D saga return in the form of digital distribution? Cartridges to digital data, now that's progress at Sonic Speed!

EXCLUSIVE COMIC PROLOGUE

TIME FOR A COMEBACK

IAN FLYNN
TERRY AUSTIN

TRACY YARDLEY!
MATT HERMS
JOHN WORKMAN
VINCENT LOVALLO
PAUL KAMINSKI

VICTOR GORELICK
MIKE PELLERITO

SPECIAL THANKS TO
ANTHONY GACCIONE, CINDY CHAU,
MIA PUTRINO, AND KEN BALOUGH
AT SEGA LICENSING

IN ANOTHER TIME, IN ANOTHER PLACE

THE EGG STATION

RRRR ARGH HOLD IT...

C'MON DOC! STEP IT UP. YOU'RE TOO SLOW.

OLÉ.

SLAM!

AAAAAAND WE'RE DONE! NICE TRY DOC.

NO!

BOOM

WHOOPS. LOOKS LIKE THAT WAS ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE LOAD BEARING BOSSES I HOPE TAILS HAS MY RIDE READY.
BINGO! I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON HIM
SOON...
SONIC! I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK SAFE AND SOUND! DID YOU BEAT DOCTOR EGGMAN AGAIN?
OF COURSE I DID! THANKS FOR THE RIDE, BUD.
ANYTIME. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO TIRED FOR ONE MORE ADVENTURE?
NEVER! WHAT'S UP?
LITTLE PLANET IS ABOUT TO MAKE ITS ANNUAL RETURN!

LITTLE PLANET NOW THAT WAS A WILD ADVENTURE..
"THAT'S WHERE I FIRST MET AMY ROSE DOCTOR EGGMAN WAS AFTER THE TIME STONES, AND HE BROUGHT ALONG HIS MOST ADVANCED BADNIK
".. METAL SONIC! I GOTTA ADMIT, OF ALL THE ROBOTS I'VE FACED, NOTHING WAS AS FAST OR AS DANGEROUS OR AS COOL-LOOKING AS THAT
"I MANAGED TO WIN THE RACE AND SAVE AMY, BUT I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED IF IT'D GO THE SAME WAY IN A REMATCH."

IT'S ALMOST TOO BAD IT GOT TOTALED BACK THEN
HELLO? SONIC? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH? OH, NOTHING! JUST TOOK A QUICK JOG DOWN MEMORY LANE, I GUESS.
HEH HEH ALL RIGHT
SONIC! OUR LITTLE ANIMAL BUDDIES LOOK WORRIED.
THEY SURE DO. THAT LOOK CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING
...DR. EGGMAN IS UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN? SO SOON?
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT SPACE STATION OF HIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING. DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH. WE'VE GOT THIS!
AND SO...
LEAD THE WAY GUYS! WE'LL STOP WHATEVER NONSENSE THE DOC'S UP TO THIS TIME.
AND YOU CAN COUNT ME IN! I'M NOT MISSING ANOTHER ADVENTURE!

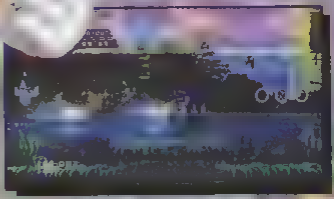
MEANWHILE...
THAT'S IT MY LOVELY ROBOTS! BRING ME MORE ANIMALS TO MAKE EVEN MORE BADNIKS!
PICK YOURSELF UP, DUST YOURSELF OFF, AND GET BACK TO WORK! SONIC IS AS BIG A PAIN AS EVER AND YOU'RE JUST THE ROBOT TO STOP HIM
MY METAL SONIC!
LITTLE PLANET HAS RETURNED-- AND SO HAS THE DREADED METAL SONIC! WHAT IS DR. EGGMAN'S NEWEST SCHEME? WILL SONIC AND TAILS STOP IT IN TIME? FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF BY PLAYING SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 4 EPISODE II ON YOUR PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, OR MOBILE DEVICES!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 4™

EPISODE II

AWESOME COMBO MOVES!

FANTASTIC ZONES!



2D PLATFORMING ACTION!

THE SAGA CONTINUES!

AVAILABLE MAY 15, 2012 FOR DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ON THE PLAYSTATION® 3, XBOX 360, [illegible]

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Graphic Novels

__ Order Volume 5 (SSB 5)
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The best of the SONIC SUPER SPECIALS and the many SONIC miniseries! Volume 5 collects the entire "Sonic Kids" saga!

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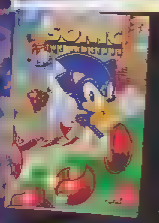
SONIC GENESIS

144 page 6⅝"x10⅜"
Hardcover Graphic Novel

■ Order Sonic Genesis (SG HC)
Available NOW!...$24.99

Collects selections from Sonic the Hedgehog issues 225, 230 and THE COMPLETE GENESIS SAGA from Sonic the Hedgehog issues 226 - 229!

BRAND NEW!



SONIC LEGACY

112 page 6⅝"x10⅜"
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SONIC AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE FOUGHT THE EVIL OF **DR. IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK** SINCE THEY WERE LITTLE KIDS -- BUT THE FACE OF **EVIL** IS CHANGING AFTER SURVIVING THE RECENT THREATS POSED BY THE **WEEETIAN ALIEN CAR-HEEM**, TO ROBOTNIK'S EVER-EVER TO BATTLING **EVIL SONIC AND THE ANTI-FREEDOM FIGHTERS**. THE TOUGH TIMES KEEP GETTING **TOUGHER!**

CONSTANT BATTLE HAS DONE SOME GOOD TOO, MAKING **THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS** A MORE **EFFICIENT FORCE** FOR GOOD ON THE PLANET **MOBIUS**, AND GAINING THEM SOME WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION!

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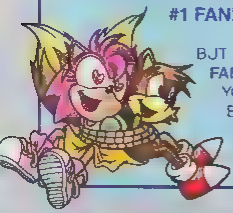
BUT DON'T LET THAT **FAN-PRAISE** GO TO YOUR HEAD, SONIC, BECAUSE **YOU MIGHT JUST BE ABOUT TO MEET YOUR MATCH...**



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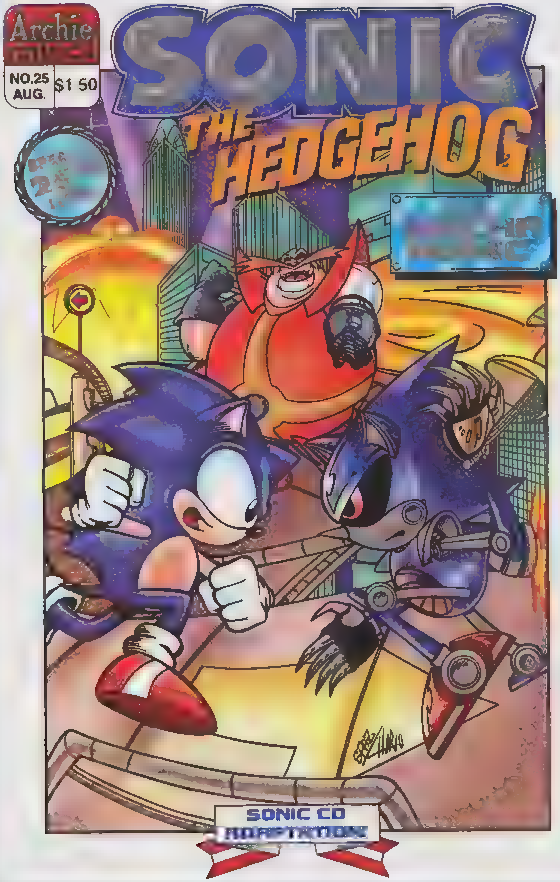
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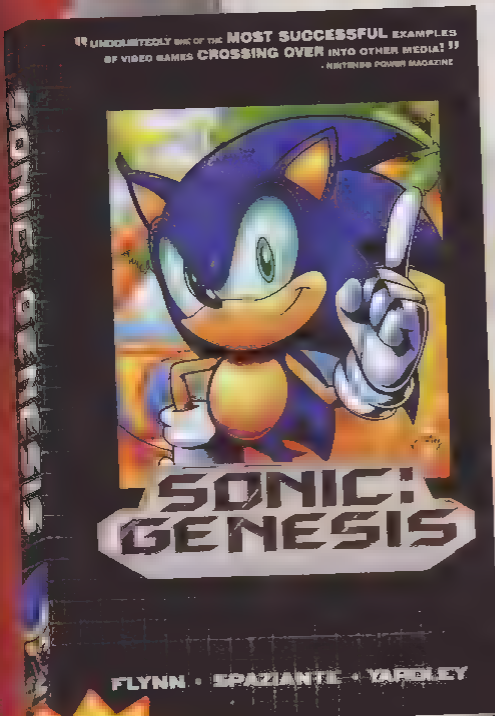

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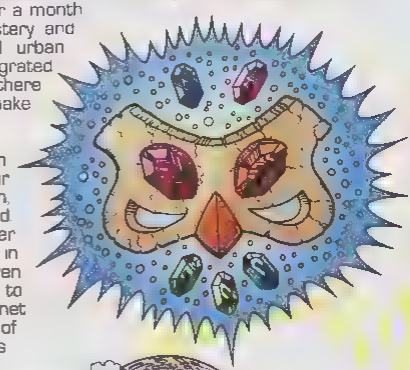
There are rumors of other protectors of the Time Stones. Some say a great and powerful owl spirit, Nicholas O'Tyme, decides who may use them. Others say that an elite few guard Little Planet throughout time and go by the name of the Knights of Kronos. Whether these are true or merely rumors remains to be seen.



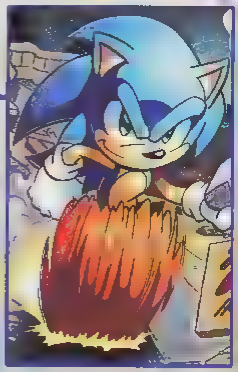
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL COMIC FEATURE:

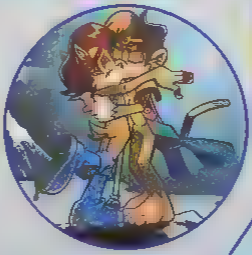
REIGNING CATS AND DOGS

PREVIOUSLY...

UPON THE DEFEAT OF **THE EVIL IRON DOMINION** THE CITIZENS OF **NEW MOBOTROPOLIS** FIND THEMSELVES STILL PICKING UP THE PIECES OF THEIR SHATTERED CITY

BATTLE SCARS AREN'T THE ONLY DAMAGES IN NEED OF HEALING AS **PRINCESS SALLY** HAS PARTED WAYS WITH HER NEWEST SWEETHEART, **MONKEY KHAN**





THE AFTERMATH EXTENDS TO THE CHAOTIX TOO AS MIGHTY AND RAY HAVE LEFT THE TEAM TO INVESTIGATE THEIR HERITAGE

AS THE HEALING BEGINS **THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS** NOW LOOK BEYOND THEIR CITY WALLS TO CATCH UP WITH AND PROVIDE **DAMAGE CONTROL** FOR THE OTHER **HEROES** AROUND THE WORLD FIRST STOP?

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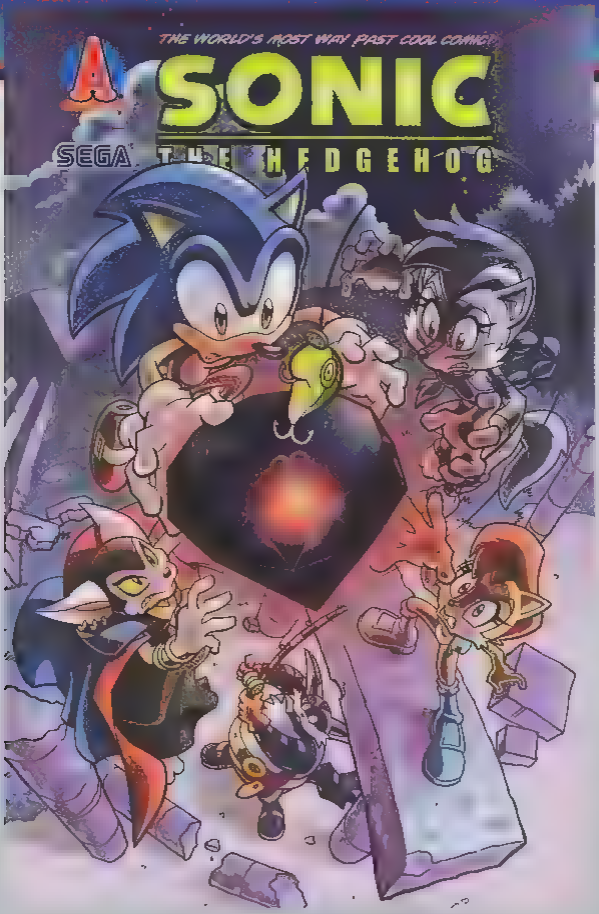
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CRACKING THE EMPIRE

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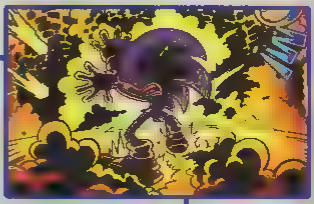
THINGS WERE FINALLY LOOKING UP FOR **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG** WHEN **DISASTER STRUCK!** FOLLOWING THE WEDDING OF ANTOINE AND BUNNIE THE **EVIL DR. EGGMAN** LAUNCHED HIS NEW EGG FLEET UPON OUR HEROES CATCHING THEM OFF-GUARD AND BURNING KNOTHOLE TO THE GROUND.

AS IF THE **DESTRUCTION OF KNOTHOLE** WASN'T ENOUGH, SONIC'S FRIENDS AND FELLOW **FREEDOM FIGHTERS** HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY EGGMAN FOR **EVIL PURPOSES UNKNOWN!**



SONIC MAY HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR A **FIGHT** WITH EGGMAN HIMSELF BUT WHAT OUR HERO COUDN'T HAVE PREPARED FOR WAS THE **UNVEILING OF THE MOST POWERFUL BATTLE SUIT IMAGINABLE** - THE DREADED **EGG BEATER** SONIC HAS LOST THE BATTLE, BUT **THE WAR IS FAR FROM OVER...**

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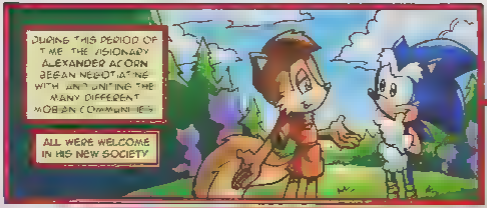
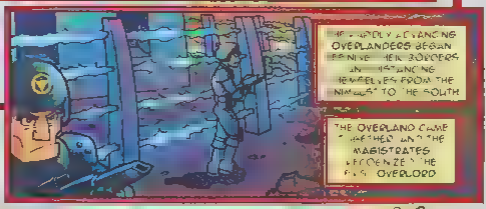
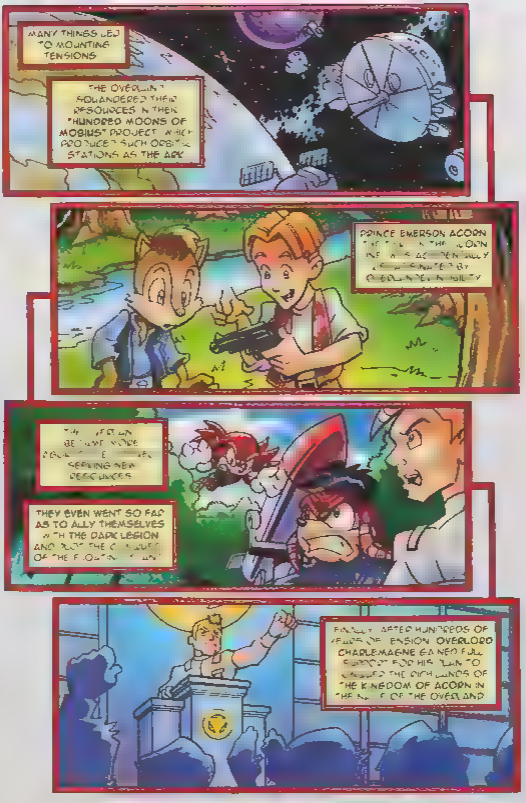
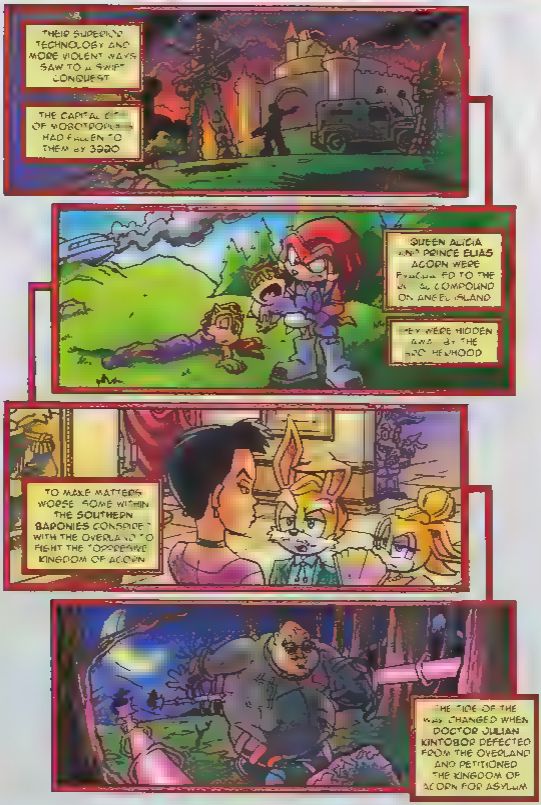

DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME, THE VISIONARY ALEXANDER ACORN BEGAN NEGOTIATING WITH AND UNITING THE MANY DIFFERENT MOBIAN COMMUNITIES.
ALL WERE WELCOME IN HIS NEW SOCIETY


OVERLANDERS BEGAN
THE OVERLAND CLAN

FOR HIS EFFORTS
MOBOTROPOLIS
HE PROMOTED
STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

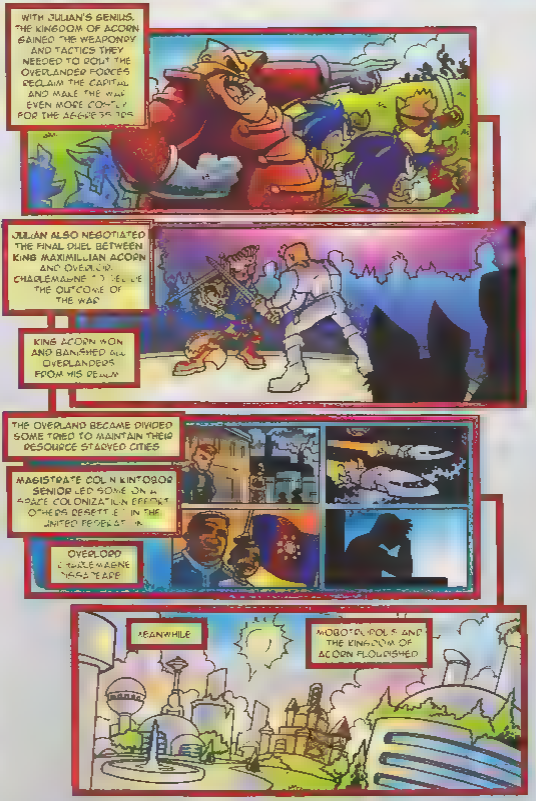
TO SUPPORT THEIR GROWING MILITARY


MANY THINGS LED TO MOUNTING TENSIONS
THE OVERLANDS SQUANDERED THEIR RESOURCES IN THEIR "HUNDRED MOONS OF MOBIUS" PROJECT, WHICH PRODUCED SUCH OBSCENE STATIONS AS THE ARK
PRINCE EMERSON ACORN
THEY EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO ALLY THEMSELVES WITH THE DARK LEGION
FINALLY, AFTER HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF TENSION, OVERLORD CHARLEMAGNE EDWARD FALL SUCCUMBED TO HIS RUN TO UNSEAT THE RICH LANDS OF THE KINGDOM OF ACORN IN THE NAME OF THE OVERLAND


THEIR SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY AND MORE VIOLENT WAYS SAW TO A SWIFT CONQUEST
THE CAPITAL CITY OF MOBOTROPOLIS HAD FALLEN TO THEM BY 3980
QUEEN ALICIA AND PRINCE ELIAS ACORN WERE EVACUATED TO THE DARK COMPOUND ON ANGEL ISLAND
THEY WERE HIDDEN AWAY BY THE BROTHERHOOD
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, SOME WITHIN THE SOUTHERN BARONIES CONSPIRED WITH THE OVERLAND TO FIGHT THE TOPPERVIE KINGDOM OF ACORN
THE TIDE OF THE WAR CHANGED WHEN DOCTOR JULIAN KINTOBOR DEFECTED FROM THE OVERLAND AND PETITIONED THE KINGDOM OF ACORN FOR ASYLUM

MOBIUS TIMELINE

14 WAR'S END



MOBIUS TIMELINE

ACT 15 JULIAN'S COUP

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 237

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 237
LOYALTY PART ONE
Team Fighters link up with Grand Chief Lupe to take down the Dark Egg Legion. Trouble ensues as they deal with the ferocious Feline Warriors and Dark Egg Legion.

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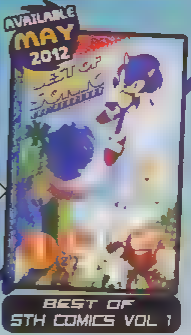


BEST OF STH COMICS VOL 1

SONIC UNIVERSE 41

SECRET FREEDOM PART ONE OF 4
"LEGACY" BY JOHN FOX BEEN SENT ON A MYSTERIOUS MISSION BY THE EVIL IXIS NAUGUS. IT'S UP TO SILVER THE HEDGEHOG'S SQUAD TO FIND OUT WHAT HE'S AFTER – AND TO STOP HIM! WHAT IS NAUGUS' SINISTER PLOT?

KNUCKLES RETURNS!
KNUCKLES IS HOT ON THE TRAIL OF HIS ARCHNEMESIS, DR. FINITEVUS. WHAT HE FINDS, HOWEVER, IS AN EVER-DEEPENING MYSTERY! WITH NEW TWISTS, SURPRISE [illegible] YOU'D BE A KNUCKLEHEAD TO MISS THIS ONE!

ON SALE JUNE 20, 2012

SONIC UNIVERSE VOL 3 KNUCKLES RETURNS

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

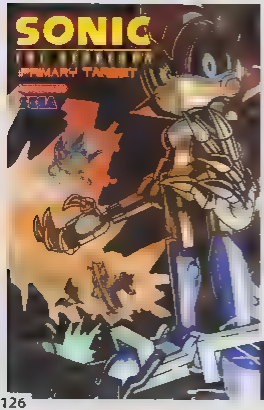
INTERVIEW WITH: BEN BATES -ARTIST-

SSSM: Ben, you've been making a splash in all things Archie lately, from Sonic to Mega Man to the launch of Red Circle Comics' NEW CRUSADERS! When did you get started on your art career and what got you into the idea of drawing comics?

BB: And I'm very lucky to be a part of all those titles! Sonic and Mega Man are video game properties I've loved since I was a kid and New Crusaders is an opportunity to shape a new world with my own creative vision. I can hardly believe I get to do so much cool stuff!

Professionally, I started my art career in late 2009 doing the art & letters for 'S.H.O.O.T. First,' which was written by Justin Atkins and appeared in MySpace Dark Horse Presents. Shortly after I was lucky enough to start providing art for Archie's 'Sonic the Hedgehog'. But really pursuing an art career has been a life long endeavor and using my creativity to survive is something I've always known I needed to do to be happy in life.

I have friends who recall the first comic they read or the moment in childhood they decided this is what they wanted to do with their life, unfortunately I don't have a cool story like that. My interests are varied and I wanted to be in video games, animation, toy design, and comics so my focus would bounce around. I think comics came most naturally to me as all I needed to hone my skills were a pencil, some paper, and my own mind.



SSSM: Your work appears to have a heavy manga influence, what aspect of Japanese cartooning have you incorporated into your approach to storytelling?

BB: Aside from the obvious style inspiration on the surface, I think most of my visual vocabulary comes from manga. I think the aspect I find most attractive about manga is what Scott McCloud refers to as audience participation in 'Making Comics,' using a wide variety of techniques in visual presentation and storytelling to immerse the reader in an experience. Whether I achieve that is questionable but it's certainly what I'm aiming for with every comic I work on.

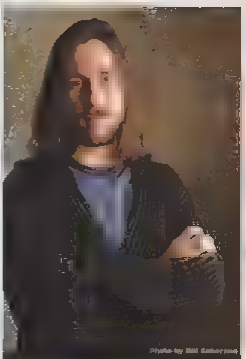


Photo by Bill Emerson

BEN BATES
SONIC PENCILLER AND COVER ARTIST

SSSM: Who's your favorite Sonic character to draw? Your least favorite?

BB: Wow, I don't know if I actually have a favorite but I guess it might be Sonic himself. Although I'm pretty excited to draw Sonic & his friends in general.

THE COVERS DUKE! THE COVERS!
BEN HAS PRODUCED QUITE A FEW COVERS FOR THE SONIC TITLE, SUCH AS THIS, THE LANDMARK COVER TO STH# 231.

After seeing so much gorgeous art from Uekawa over the years I feel like every time I draw Sonic characters is a chance to try and contain even a speck of the mastery, fun, and imagination he puts into all of his drawings.

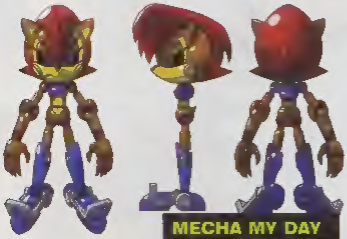
Least favorite, unfortunately, turns out to be much easier to identify. It used to be Ixis Naugus, but nowadays I actually like drawing him. I feel like little by little I've solved and adjusted aspects of him that make him a better fit in the world of Sonic the Hedgehog. I think my new least favorite is Snively. The character is so hideous to me I don't know if I'll ever find a way to enjoy drawing him.

SSSM: What advice would you give to an aspiring artist trying to break into the world of comics?

BB: Oh this one is super easy, it's to draw as many comics as you can before you're a professional. Write and draw your own stories, find scripts online, or team up with a writer, but produce as much material and start honing your skills as soon as possible. Everytime you draw a new page you'll be learning what works and what doesn't; how to better handle pacing, where to add or combine panels, depicting action, location, emotion. You'll learn how to actually do the job.

SSSM: Can you give us any teasers about your upcoming projects in Sonic, Mega Man or New Crusaders? What if we ask reeeaaallly nicely?

BB: Oh man, teasers? I think by this time all my current work on Sonic and Mega Man will be out. For New Crusaders, I'm not sure what would be a good teaser. Maybe something like: the story literally starts out with a bang and you'll get to see both old and new superheroes in action! ■



MECHA MY DAY

BEN'S DESIGN TURN AROUNDS FOR MECHA SALLY!

TITAN METAL SONIC

BEN BATES ILLUSTRATES A MASSIVE METAL SONIC IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #231!

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REMEMBER TO WRITE IN TO SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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